

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	25X1
TOPIC	Altenburg Airfield		25X1
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	PLACE OBTAINED		25X1
DATE OF CONTENT	13 September to 6 October 1952		
DATE OBTAINED	25X1	DATE PREPARED	12 November 1952
REFERENCES			
PAGES	2	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS			
	DO NOT CIRCULATE		
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1. The following observations were made at Altenburg airfield during the period from 20 September through 6 October 1952:

20 September. At 12:30 p.m., 22 jet fighters and two single-engine planes were counted at the field. There was no flying. Maintenance work was being performed on five jet fighters, which were parked in the southern portion of the field.

23 September. At 10:50 a.m., 16 jet fighters, six of them covered with tarpaulins, were observed in the northern section of the field. Maintenance work was being performed on three additional jet fighters and an IL-12 parked in front of the hangar. There was no flying.

26 September. At 10:10 a.m. a jet fighter took off for a five-minute flight. At 10:19 a.m., a jet fighter took off for local flying. At 10:22 a.m., four jet fighters took off headed west. At 10:23 and 10:25 a.m., two groups of two MiG-15s each took off headed west. Maintenance work was being done on 12 MiG-15s parked at the field.

29 September. Between 7 and 8 p.m., several jet fighters landed at the field. At the same time, source heard, in his radio set, the Morse signal transmitted by a radio beacon.¹

30 September. At 9:28 a.m., three jet fighters crossed the airfield in low-level flight. At 9:29 a.m., two jet fighters took off in line-abreast formation and then joined the three planes aloft. At 10:08 a.m., another group of two jet fighters took off. Several jet fighters landed at the field between 7:13 and 7:45 p.m. Flying discontinued at 8:30 p.m.

3 October. At 10:43, a jet fighter took off headed south. Eight jet fighters were seen in the northern portion of the field. Maintenance work was being performed on another estimated 20 jet fighters parked in the middle of the field.

6 October. Five jet fighters were observed in the northern portion of the field and another 22, nine of which covered with canvas, in the middle of the landing field.²

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2. On 20 September and 3 October, source observed soldiers gathering twigs in the woods from which they made brooms. On several days during the period from 13 September to 6 October, source observed soldiers working on a fence around the field. Holes for fence posts were being dug and barbed-wire installed on the southern edge of the installation. On 26 September, road blocks were being built on forest paths east of the field. On 29 September, about 80 men were working on the fence around the field. Between 9 and 10 a.m. on 6 October, about 300 men had fallen in for an inspection at the installation. A detail of 80 unarmed men, led by an officer, was seen marching to the target range.³

3. On 6 October, three trucks, [redacted] hauled gravel to the field from the gravel pit near Klaus. On 20 September, source observed two emplaced and well camouflaged AA guns at the northeastern end of the approach lane. Soldiers seen there wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. A telephone line extended from the AAA emplacement to the single-story brick building east of the northern end of the runway, which was previously occupied by the Faununion firm. On 3 October, source observed a third gun at the emplacement. Because of effective camouflage, it could not be determined whether still more guns were there.⁴

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4. [redacted]

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1. [redacted] Comment. Source reported previously that he could hear Morse signals in his radio set, when night flying was being conducted at Altenburg airfield. The Morse signal, probably the letters S and A, may be the identification signal of a low frequency approach beacon.

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2. [redacted] Comment. A fighter regiment is stationed at the field. Some MiG-15s of this unit were previously stationed at Erfurt-Bindersleben airfield. It appears that these planes returned to Altenburg in early October, as after that date, no planes were observed in Erfurt-Bindersleben. [redacted]

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3. [redacted] Comment. It is believed that the security measures at the field are being intensified.

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4. [redacted] Comment. At least one light AAA battery equipped with 6 x 37-mm guns is believed to be stationed at the field. The pinpoint locations of the emplacements are unknown.

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